

County, who do not have insurance, to improve their health. VODI has emerged as an extraordinary leader in Michigan's efforts to provide better health care access for the uninsured. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, RWJF, recognized VODI for its efforts and awarded them a grant as part of RWJF's Urgent Matters initiative to increase understanding of the health care safety net and improve the efficiency of emergency care.

Over a quarter million residents are without health insurance coverage in Detroit and Wayne County. This lack of insurance has severe implications on patient health and the availability of resources to care for the uninsured, most of whom are low-income working people. As a result, more than 50 percent of emergency room visits are for problems that could have been treated outside of the emergency room.

VODI is a coalition between Michigan's leading systems: Henry Ford Health System, Detroit Medical Center, St. John Health, Oakwood Healthcare and Federally Qualified Health Centers. The Federally Qualified Health Centers are made up of Advantage Health Centers, Community Health and Social Services, CHASS, and Detroit Community Health Connection, and the Detroit and Wayne County Health Departments. Together these leaders work to connect the uninsured with a provider or clinic that can provide direct care on an ongoing basis, a "medical home." Health care services at these sites are provided to VODI's members on a sliding-fee scale. VODI also engages in multiple activities to promote better health care access for the uninsured, including a pharmacy assistance and medication review program, a tobacco use reduction program, and care management services to assist clients with managing their chronic health conditions.

On behalf of the people of Michigan, I am pleased to express appreciation to the Voices of Detroit Initiative for their untiring leadership in coordinating and leveraging scarce resources on behalf of the underserved and uninsured and to honor the organization, its staff, and its partners as they continue to work to fulfill their lifesaving mission.●

TRIBUTE TO MR. WALTER HAMBLIN

● Mr. BUNNING. Madam President, I pay tribute today to the life of Mr. Walter "Sam" Hamblin of Demossville, KY.

Sam served his country in the Army for 22 years. He enlisted as a private, but worked his way through Officer Candidate School before retiring with the rank of major. He served with distinction during the Vietnam war and provided important service both at his station in Texas and at the Pentagon in Washington, DC.

Sam chose to retire near his family's home in Kentucky, adopting the farm

life and raising his children. Family and service were very important to Sam. Six generations earlier, Pierce Dant Hamblin crossed the Delaware River with General Washington during the Revolutionary War. His great grandfather, Henry Clay Hamblin, served in the Kentucky 7th Regiment during the Civil War. And Sam's father, Walter Hamblin, served in the Navy during World War II. Through the years, the Hamblins have been known as defenders of the Commonwealth.

During Sam's retirement—and in between attending local sporting events and taking care of his growing family—he continued to travel to Washington and lend his expertise to the American military. He was also the manager and owner of the Peaseburg Inn of Covington. And he still found time to write country music songs with his son, Samuel.

Unfortunately, Sam developed thyroid and throat cancer 5 years ago. After fighting hard against cancer, Sam died Friday, July 23, 2004 at his home.

I am proud of Sam Hamblin's distinguished service. He honored the legacy and traditions of the Hamblin family and served our country well. My thoughts and prayers are with his family.●

AMERICAN LEGION OF OSAGE, IA

● Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I would like to pay special tribute to the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 278 of Osage, IA. On Sunday, April 18, the American Legion, the Auxiliary, and SAL held one of their "famous omelet" breakfasts for a fundraiser to support the Osage High School Band's trip to Washington, DC on May 29. The Osage band was chosen to represent Iowa in the parade at the dedication of the new World War II Memorial.

It was necessary for the band to raise \$65,000 so that all members could participate in this great event. The American Legion Family of Osage agreed to host a breakfast and to match funds that were raised that day. A number of Legion members cooked meals, with band members serving the food. In all, over 300 people were served.

The American Legion was proud to present a check in the amount of \$2,400.00 to band director Jeff Kirkpatrick at their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 20.

I join State Commander John Ross in congratulating his hometown band for being chosen to represent Iowa. Along with the Osage Legion family, I salute the community, the band, and all who helped in any way to make this trip possible.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under authority of the order of the Senate of September 7, 2004, the Secretary of the Senate, on September 7, 2004, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 5005. An act making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, for additional disaster assistance.

Under the authority of order of September 7, 2004, the enrolled bill was signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS) during the adjournment of the Senate on September 7, 2004.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 4381. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the "Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building".

H.R. 4442. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1050 North Hills Boulevard in Reno, Nevada, as the "Guardians of Freedom Memorial Post Office Building" and to authorize the installation of a plaque at such site, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4556. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1115 South Clinton Avenue in Dunn, North Carolina, as the "General William Carey Lee Post Office Building".

H.R. 4618. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 10 West Prospect Street in Nanuet, New York, as the "Anthony I. Lombardi Memorial Post Office Building".

H.R. 4654. An act to reauthorize the Tropical Forest Conservation Act of 1998 through fiscal year 2007, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4381. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2811 Springdale Avenue in Springdale, Arkansas, as the "Harvey and Bernice Jones Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.